

Appl. No. 10/654,789

REMARKS

The Applicants have reviewed the Advisory Action dated September 15, 2004 upholding the final rejection. The Applicants thank Examiner Dunwoody for his detailed review of the pending claims. In response, please see the attached request for continued examination. Accompanying the request is the present amendment that amends claims 1, 8-9, 13-14, 17-19 and 21. Claims 2-4, 10-12, 15-16 and 20 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 5-9, 13-14, 17-19 and 21 remain pending in the present application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Advisory Action upholds the rejection of currently pending claims 1, 5-9, 14, 18-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,093,108 to Moulinet. In view the amendments to the independent claims, the Applicants again respectfully traverse the rejection.

As previously discussed the Moulinet patent fails to teach each limitation of the claimed invention as is required to sustain a rejection under §102(b). Specifically, the Moulinet patent fails to teach the novel limitation of at least one sealing bead located on a first end surface of the sealing area and at least one sealing bead located on a second sealing surface, wherein the second end surface is generally orthogonal to the first end surface. Instead, the Moulinet patent teaches two grooves or channels on a top surface of a sealing area, but fails to teach any beads located on a second, generally orthogonal surface of the sealing area.

Accordingly, the Moulinet patent fails to teach each limitation of the independent claims, specifically, sealing beads first and second end surfaces wherein the second end surface is generally orthogonal to the first end surface. Further, the dependent claims add additional features to the patentable independent claims and are also patentable. For at least these reasons claims 1, 5-9, 14, 18-19 and 21 are patentable and the Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Advisory Action upholds the rejection of claims 4, 12, 13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moulinet. Only claims 13 and 17 remain pending in the present application. The Applicants again respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the arguments made above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 13 and 17 are dependent claims adding additional features to the patentable subject matter of independent claims 8 and 14. For at least this reason they are patentable.

Conclusion

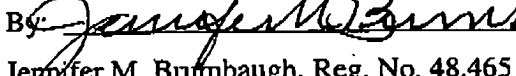
The Applicants believe the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner pass the case to issue.

It is believe that there is no fee due with the Amendment. However, if a fee is due please charge deposit account 07-1360 under reference number G00343/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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